

Castle, Boehner Introduce Legislation to Extend Child Nutrition Programs

WASHINGTON, D.C. – House Education Reform Subcommittee Chairman Michael Castle (R-DE) and Committee on Education and the Workforce Chairman John Boehner (R-OH) introduced legislation today to extend the authorization for the expiring provisions of childhood nutrition programs for another year, while the Committee prepares legislation to improve provisions in the Child Nutrition Act and the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act. Rep. George Miller (D-CA), the committee's senior Democrat member, and Rep. Lynn Woolsey (D-CA), ranking member on the Education Reform Subcommittee, are original co-sponsors of the bill.

“I have been pleased with the progress made in preparing a bill for introduction,” Chairman Castle said. “Despite our progress, Committee Members do not want to draft such important legislation in haste. Without the extensions included in this legislation, millions of needy children could lose access to healthy meals and snacks that are critical for their healthy growth and development and academic success in school.”

“Education and the Workforce Committee members are working hard to ensure that the reauthorization process improves child nutrition programs,” Chairman Boehner noted. “We want to make sure that we take into consideration a wide variety of factors, including proper nutrition, cost-effectiveness, and protecting school revenue. Because this is such important legislation, we’re going to take the time to make sure we get it right.”

A series of federal child nutrition programs are scheduled to be reauthorized. These programs, which represent a \$12 billion yearly commitment by the federal government to the health and nutrition of children and families, include the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs, the Child and Adult Care Food

Program, the Summer Food Service Program, and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).

The Castle/Boehner legislation would allow children of Armed Services members living in privatized military housing to continue receiving free or reduced-price meals at school if they meet eligibility requirements; for-profit child care centers to participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program; and schools, churches, and community organizations to operate Summer Food Service Program sites. Furthermore, the bill ensures that until a child nutrition reauthorization bill is signed into law, commodity distribution to schools will be maintained at sufficient levels and that schools will have funds available to replace commodities that pose a potential health or safety risk to students.

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

- [Full Committee - Webcast](#)
Hearing on "[Improving the Quality and Efficiency of Commodity Distribution to Federal Child Nutrition Programs](#)," scheduled for 2:00 p.m. in room 2175 Rayburn HOB.
Witnesses scheduled to appear:

Panel I:

The Honorable Eric M. Bost
Under Secretary
Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, D.C.

Mr. A.J. Yates
Administrator
Agricultural Marketing Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, D.C.

Panel II:

Thomas E. Stenzel
President and CEO
United Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Association
Washington, D.C.

Robert P. Heaney, M.D., F.A.C.P., F.A.C.N.
John A. Creighton University Professor
Professor of Medicine, Department of Medicine

Creighton University
Omaha, NE

Robinson W. Joslin
President
Ohio Soybean Association
Sidney, OH

Joanne L. Slavin, Ph.D., R.D.
Professor of Nutrition
Department of Food Science and Nutrition
University of Minnesota
St. Paul, MN

Paula Cockwell
Manager of Nutrition Services, Adams County School District
#14
Food Service Director, Mapleton Public School District
Denver, CO